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17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

Proposal for cooperative program between college representatives and the public school teachers and administrators to improve teacher education. Lists nine specific goals.

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IV -18
(Teacher Tr.)

SACRAMENTO STATE COLLEGE
Sacramento, California

January, 1960

Directors: Dr. Merle Vance
Dr. Willis J. Black

# A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM TO IMPROVE TEACHER EDUCATION

## Statement of Need:

The schism that now exists between public school teachers and administrators and those in professional education has resulted in a delicate and disturbing dilemma. National, state, and local agencies have been concerned with the present controversy on the education of teachers. It is not enough to know that differences exist between college educators and public school teachers, but rather that such differences be identified in a systematic and professional manner.

At the present time, only fragmentary information is available to the colleges for use in improving teacher education programs. A review of the literature shows a paucity of research in the areas of follow-up of college graduates and evaluation of teacher education curricula. If improvement of these programs is to be based upon the expressed needs of teachers in the field, it is imperative that such needs be representative of the thinking of the great number of teachers in the public schools and that they be expressed, either positively or critically, to those who are in a position to facilitate adjustments so that these needs may be met.

Continued improvement of programs of teacher education is contingent upon valid identification and appraisal of the basic issues with which public school people are concerned. In recognizing and accepting opinions and needs of teachers as important, and rather than leave such vital communication to chance, as at present, it is proposed that a cooperative program be carried out between representatives of the college and the teachers and administrators of the public schools. This program would help identify issues of immediate concern to both educators and teachers and would establish the structure and precedent for a continuous program of cooperation and coordination

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between these two groups.

The Proposal:

A. It is proposed that two directors of this study work with public school teachers and administrators through the established TEPS Committees (Teacher Education and Professional Standards) organized at present in each chapter of the California Teachers Association in the following 5 counties: Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, San Joaquin, and Yolo. These counties represent 169 school districts and 5 county offices. The TEPS Committees have relationships with the National Education Association and the National Commission on on Teacher Education and Professional Standards. Some of the purposes for which these local committees have been established are as follows:

1. The improvement of pre-service teacher education programs.
2. The extension and improvement of in-service professional growth opportunities.
3. The encouragement of local projects whereby older students have an opportunity to assist and work closely with expert teachers at various grade levels.

B. Procedures:

1. The directors will make initial contact with the TEPS Committees in each C.T.A. Chapter by mail to:
   a. Outline the purposes and scope of the program for TEPS Committees,
   b. suggest broad areas in which basic issues may be identified,
   c. suggest procedures that each committee might follow in identifying these issues,
   d. provide an invitation form for a director(s) to meet with the TEPS Committee representatives to discuss the basic issues identified.

2. Upon invitation to participate with the TEPS Committee representatives, one or both directors (depending upon the size of the group) will travel to the area designated for such meeting.

a. An outline for preliminary committee discussion will be sent so that the committees may prepare for a visitation and consultation with chapter membership.

b. Questions will be prepared by the directors on each of the areas in which basic issues have been identified. This will help standardize the procedures and help to make the responses easier to identify for later tabulation. The same questions will be used with the different committees by each director.

c. An attempt will be made to encourage free discussion and friendly controversy on the basic issues and to create a favorable climate through an interactive process. Establishment of rapport and mutual understanding between the directors and the TEPS Committees are of major concern and important for (1) eliciting valid responses, (2) developing confidence in the program, and (3) establishing a basic structure for follow-up and continuance of the program on an interpersonal approach.

d. After general discussion of issues, 8 to 10 minutes will be devoted to taping concluding statements of basic issues clearly identified. These tapes will be used by the directors for later tabulating and writing reports of findings. They will also be made available to (1) planned meetings of members of the Teacher Education Division, (2) planned cooperative meetings of teacher education and other college groups concerned with teacher education, (3) other colleges

that have planned to improve teacher education programs, (4) the National Commission on Teacher Education and Professional Standards - N. E. A., and (5) the California Teachers Association, Committee on Professional Standards.

Note: Care will be taken that names of respondents, chapters, and school districts are not identified with taped responses that may reflect on them in any manner. It is not the purpose nor the intent to identify persons or regions, but rather to collect data relating to issues of concern to teachers and administrators.

Reports will be written and directed to appropriate agencies through professional publications.

3. The first two phases of the program should help establish positive relationships between the colleges and the public schools so that follow-up workshops and large group conferences may be co-sponsored by the TEPS Committees and teacher education agencies.

It is important that participants in later meetings include teachers, administrators, supervisors, students preparing to teach (CSTA and TEPS Committee representatives), first and second year teachers, representatives from state and national education agencies.

Later conferences and workshops sponsored by _____ will be guided by agendas based upon the identification of basic issues affecting teacher education and structured upon the processes developed by the cooperative program outlined above.

4. The program should result in the following:

a. The development of valid statements of basic issues that may be used by college faculties as a basis for revision of curricula for new credential

structure.

b. Improved relationships and understanding between teachers and those engaged in teacher education at the colleges.

c. Increased understanding of the problems of teacher education.

d. Improved lines of communication; processes for channeling both positive and critical opinions of teachers in an ethical and professional manner.

e. Improved programs and higher standards developed for the education of teachers.

f. Broadened responsibility for the education of teachers.

g. Advancement of sound educational doctrine.

h. Improved action programs for improving teacher education with participation of all segments of the profession.

i. Improved relations within the colleges of students and faculty in the disciplines with teacher education faculty.

**BUDGET:**

| Category | Cost |
|---|---|
| **Salaries:** | |
| Two Directors plus professional assistance . . . . . | $ 5,000.00 |
| Secretarial. . . . . | 1,750.00 |
| **Travel:** | |
| Approximately 18,000 miles @ $.09 . . . . . | 1,620.00 |
| **Equipment:** | |
| Blank tapes, 50 @ $2.00 ea. . . . . | 100.00 |
| Two tape recorders, rented. . . . . | 360.00 |
| Office supplies . . . . . | 150.00 |
| Printing and Duplicating (letters, forms, etc.) . . . . | 200.00 |
| TOTAL | $ 9,180.00 |